AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims listed below replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. CANCELLED.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for forming an aqueous carbon black dispersion comprising

providing a reaction mixture comprising carbon black having a primary particle diameter of less than 18 nanometers and a DBP uptake of less than 70cc/100g of said carbon black, a monovalent ion persulfate, and an aqueous medium;

subjecting said reaction mixture to a first temperature of from 40 °C to 90 °C for from 2 hours to 24 hours; and

adjusting said reaction mixture to a pH greater than 7.0.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for forming an aqueous carbon black dispersion comprising

providing a reaction mixture comprising carbon black having a DBP uptake of greater than 90cc/100g of said carbon black, a monovalent ion persulfate, a strong acid, and an aqueous medium;

subjecting said reaction mixture to a first temperature of from 40 °C to 90 °C for from 2 hours to 24 hours; and

adjusting said reaction mixture to a pH greater than 7.0. ~~The method of claim 1 wherein said reaction mixture further comprises a strong acid.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A method for forming an aqueous carbon black dispersion comprising

providing a reaction mixture comprising carbon black having a DBP uptake of greater than 90cc/100g of said carbon black, a monovalent ion persulfate, and an aqueous medium;

subjecting said reaction mixture to a first temperature of from 40 °C to 90 °C for from 2 hours to 24 hours;

adjusting said reaction mixture to a pH greater than 7.0; and

~~The method of claim 1 further comprising, after said pH adjustment step,~~ subjecting said reaction mixture to a second temperature of from 20 °C to 40 °C higher than said first temperature for from 2 hours to 12 hours.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for forming an aqueous carbon black dispersion comprising

providing a reaction mixture comprising carbon black having a DBP uptake of greater than 90cc/100g of said carbon black, a monovalent ion persulfate, and an aqueous medium;

subjecting said reaction mixture to a first temperature of from 40 °C to 90 °C for from 2 hours to 24 hours;

adjusting said reaction mixture to a pH greater than 7.0; and

~~The method of claim 1 further comprising~~ adding an anionic or nonionic stabilizer either to the reaction mixture or before or after the pH adjustment step.

6. CANCELLED.

7. CANCELLED.

8. CANCELLED.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said reaction mixture further comprises a strong acid.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising, after said pH adjustment step, subjecting said reaction mixture to a second temperature of from 20 °C to 40 °C higher than said first temperature for from 2 hours to 12 hours.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising adding an anionic or nonionic stabilizer.

12. CANCELLED.

13. CANCELLED.

14. CANCELLED.

15. CANCELLED.

16. CANCELLED.

17. CANCELLED.

18. CANCELLED.

19. CANCELLED.

20. (Currently Amended) An aqueous inkjet ink comprising an aqueous ~~the~~ carbon black dispersion prepared by the method of ~~claim 12~~
providing a reaction mixture comprising carbon black having a DBP uptake of greater than 90cc/100g of said carbon black, a monovalent ion persulfate, and an aqueous medium;
subjecting said reaction mixture to a first temperature of from 40 °C to 90 °C for from 2 hours to 24 hours; and
adjusting said reaction mixture to a pH greater than 7.0.

21. (Currently Amended) An aqueous inkjet ink comprising an aqueous ~~the~~ carbon black dispersion prepared by the method of claim ~~13~~2.

22. (Previously Presented) The aqueous ink of claim 20 further comprising an emulsion polymer.

23. (Previously Presented) The aqueous ink of claim 21 further comprising an emulsion polymer.